

Kentucky Environmental Education Council  
Council Meeting

April 24, 2003

Education, Arts & Humanities Cabinet Conference Room, Frankfort, KY

**Members present:** Horace Brown, Greg Higdon, Kurt Mason, Frances Carter, Jeff Hohman, Evelyn Morgan and Yvonne Meichtry.

**Members not present:** Wade Helm and Robin Chandler

**Guest present:** Lou Deluca

**Staff present:** Jane Eller and Suzanne Baskett

Mr. Brown began the meeting by greeting everyone and welcoming Mr. Hohman, who was recently appointed to the Council. He then asked Mr. Hohman to give us a little background on himself. Mr. Hohman has been employed with East Kentucky Power Cooperative for 25 years. He is manager of the Natural Resources and Environmental Communications Department. East Kentucky Power provides direct classroom education on such topics as Kentucky amphibians, bats and wildflowers.

Mr. Brown then called for approval of the minutes from the last two meetings (there being no quorum at the January meeting). Mr. Mason moved to approve the minutes and Ms. Morgan seconded that motion. The minutes were then approved.

The next order of business was the election of officers. Mr. Higdon nominated Mr. Brown as chair and Ms. Carter seconded that nomination. Ms. Carter then nominated Mr. Mason as vice chair and Ms. Morgan seconded that nomination. Both Mr. Brown and Mr. Mason were elected unanimously.

Mr. Brown then asked Ms. Eller to report on the budget. Ms. Eller referred Council members to the budget document in their packets and referred specifically to several other budget issues including the following.

- We have not spent as much money as usual by this time in the budget year because we are holding funds in reserve to help cover some expenses that will occur near the end of the fiscal year. These include the Youth Environmental Summit and printing the water units.
- The staff would like to purchase a fax machine and CD writer to make the agency more efficient. Ms. Eller currently has to take all units of study home on multiple disks and then write them on her home computer and bring them back. This often means using up to 15 discs and making all those transfers twice. In addition, we are sharing a fax with at least 40 other people and our faxes often get lost in the process.

- Now that there is a state budget, we assume that the state will sell bonds pursuant to HB 174. However, it will still take at least a year to appreciate any interest from that fund.
- Secretary Helm is still working to see if we can preserve the additional \$30,000 that was placed in the Cabinet budget for use by the Council.

Mr. Brown then directed Ms. Eller to update the Council on the major projects and initiatives. These include:

**Youth Environmental Summit-** Ms. Eller would like to invite everyone to attend the first annual Youth Environmental Summit on May 13, 2003, at Midway College. High school students from around the state have been doing research on their own communities and will present their research at the Summit. This has been a truly collaborative project and one we would like to continue.

**Outdoor Classroom Guide-** Ms. Eller asked Mr. Mason, who is chair of this committee, to discuss it. Mr. Mason said the ODC committee has been meeting and has been working on a supplement to the school facilities manual that will help schools plan such outdoor learning areas as wetlands, butterfly gardens, etc. This new guide will describe how to develop or build specific features in outdoor areas. Ms. Eller will be actually writing the guide this summer using information provided by committee members and the committee will not meet again until that is complete. Mr. Brown suggested contacting planning and zoning boards to let them know that this guide will be available and will be a supplement to the school facilities manual.

**Website-** We have had to completely redo our website to make it compliant with new state regs. At the same time, we are updating the databases and giving it a new look. The Secretary's office gave us a \$5,000 grant to help with this. Currently we have aligned Project Learning Tree and Food Land & People activities to our state EE standards and those will appear when the standards are called up on the screen. We believe this will be a tremendous help to all educators who are searching for just the right activity to teach a particular concept.

**Certification-** Ms. Eller reviewed the guidelines that have been developed by the Certification Task Force. She said the guidelines are probably the most rigorous in the nation at this point but said the Task Force members felt strongly that the program should have strong content and assessment components. We are still looking for funding to cover the initial start up of the program and get the first group of trainers certified.

**Endorsement-** The committee will go before the Education Professional Standards Board May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2003. We are still looking for funding for this project too. We have submitted proposals to EPA requesting funding for both faculty development and the certification project.

**CCWEP-** This program for adult water education across the state is no longer in our hands. It has been turned over to the University of Louisville, which will serve as fiscal

agent and hire a project director. The Council will serve as evaluator for the project and will provide \$4,000 a year in matching funds for that part of the project that provides water education for local officials.

**Units of Study-** The water units have been completed and PRIDE is reviewing them. The EQC units of study activities have been completed and Ms. Eller will be doing the final layout this summer. Final copies will be mailed to Council members.

**Radio Expeditions-** If funded, this cooperative project with the Kentucky Geographic Alliance will air one-minute spots on Clear Channel Radio highlighting Kentucky's wonderful places. It will also create longer spots that will be broadcast by Internet into classrooms and we will create lessons to go with these spots. Ms. Eller said she really is excited about this project both because she feels it will be an engaging one for students and adults but also because she hopes our agency will get some good publicity from it.

**Other Projects-** To save time, Mr. Brown asked if there were specific questions about the other projects listed on the agenda. There being none, they were not discussed. These are not major projects for our agency but rather projects on which we are lending assistance.

National involvements: SEER, National Certification, NAAEE and NEEAC  
Pine Mountain/Nature Tourism  
Jackson Co. EIC  
Orsanco  
Harlan Co. Leadership  
Crowe's Chase  
Envirothon  
PRIDE workshops

Mr. Brown then asked if there were any new or old business to discuss. Ms. Eller said she would like to remind the Council that our next meeting will be the Council retreat, July 24-25, 2003 and will be held at Lake Cumberland State Park. At this meeting we will need to begin planning how to update the master plan which will be five years old next year!

Mr. Brown asked if there were any other issues to be discussed at this time. There were none. Mr. Brown adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be July 24, 2003.